

§518.57

(iv) Military personnel records. Only HQDA can release information from these records. Custodians will refer all requests from Congress directly and promptly to the Chief of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Army, HQDA (SALL) WASH DC 20310-1600.

(v) Criminal investigation records. Only the Commanding General, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC), can release any USACIDC-originated criminal investigation file. For further information, see AR 195-2, Criminal Investigation Activities.

(vi) Other exempt records. Commanders or chiefs will refer requests for all other categories of exempt information under §518.33 directly to the Chief of Legislative Liaison per paragraph (d) of this section. They will include a copy of the material requested and, as appropriate, recommendations concerning release or denial.

(vii) All other records. The commander or chief with custody of the records will furnish all other information promptly.

(2) To the Federal courts, whenever ordered by officers of the court as necessary for the proper administration of justice.

(3) To other Federal Agencies, both executive and administrative, as determined by the head of a DoD Component or designee.

(i) Disciplinary actions and criminal investigations. Requests for access to, or information from, the records of disciplinary actions or criminal investigations will be honored if proper credentials are presented. Representatives of the Office of Personnel Management may be given information from personnel files of employees actually employed at organizations or activities. Each such request will be considered on its merits. The information released will be the minimum required in connection with the investigation being conducted.

(ii) Other types of requests. All other official requests received by DA elements from agencies of the executive branch (including other military departments) will be honored, if there are no compelling reasons to the contrary. If there are reasons to withhold the records, the requests will be submitted

32 CFR Ch. V (7-1-02 Edition)

for determination of the propriety of release to the appropriate addresses shown in appendix B.

(4) To State and local officials, as determined by the head of a DoD Component or designee.

(b) DoD Components shall inform officials receiving records under the provisions of §518.56(a), that those records are exempt from public release under the FOIA and are privileged. DOD Components shall also advise officials of any special handling instructions.

§518.57 Required coordination.

Before forwarding a FOIA request to an IDA for action, records custodians will obtain an opinion from their servicing judge advocate concerning the releasability of the requested records. A copy of that legal review, the original FOIA request, two copies of the requested information (with one copy clearly indicating which portions are recommended for withholding, which FOIA exemptions support such withholding, and which portions, if any, have already been released), a copy of the interim response acknowledging receipt and notifying the requester of the referral to the IDA, and a cover letter containing a telephone point of contact will be forwarded to the IDA with the command's recommendation to deny a request in whole or in part.

INITIAL DETERMINATIONS

§518.58 Initial denial authority.

(a) Components shall limit the number of IDAs appointed. In designating its IDAs, a DoD Component shall balance the goals of centralization of authority to promote uniform decisions and decentralization to facilitate responding to each request within the time limitations of the FOIA. The DA officials in paragraph (d) of this section are designated as the Army's only IDAs. Only an IDA, his or her delegate, or the Secretary of the Army can deny FOIA requests for DA records. Each IDA will act on direct and referred requests for records within his or her area of functional responsibility. (See the proper AR in the 10-series for full discussions of these areas; they are outlined in paragraph (d) of this section.) Included are records created or